

Serial No. 10/030,565

PATENT
Docket No. 58009-014700**REMARKS**

Examination of the present application is to be based on claims 2 to 6, 8, and 10 to 21, where claims 1, 7, and 9 have been cancelled, and new claims 11-21 have been added. The present set of claims contains a total of eighteen claims, seven of which are independent. A petition for 4 additional independent claims is enclosed with the present response.

The office action of March 17, 2004 has been carefully examined.

I. Amended claims - New claims

Claims 2-6, 8 and 10 have been amended to be put in an independent form. New claims 11 to 21 have been added. The new claims are deemed to be supported by original claims 1, 2, 3, 7 and 9 of the present application, and related portions of the specification. No new matter has been added.

II. 35 USC 103(a)

In Sections 1 and 2 of the Action, the Examiner rejects claims 1, 7 and 9 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 0577121 to Dalla Valle in view of FR 94 11344 to Serge.

Claims 1, 7 and 9 have been cancelled, thus rendering the rejections of the Examiner moot.

III. Claim Objections

In Section 3 of the Action, the Examiner objects to claims 2-6, 8 and 10 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, while stating that claims 2-6, 8 and 10 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims.

The Applicant has amended claims 2-6, 8 and 10 to put them in a proper, independent form. Therefore, the Applicant submits that the Examiner's objection has been overcome.

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Docket No. 58009-014700**V. Allowable claims**

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the allowability of claims 2-6, 8 and 10 which have been rewritten in an independent format. The Applicant also submits that new claims 11 to 21, are allowable at least in view of their dependency from allowable claims 2, 3, 5, 8 and 10. The Applicant therefore submits that all pending claims 2-6, 8, 10 and 11 to 21 are in condition for allowability.

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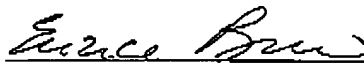
The Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge a fee of \$172 for four additional independent claims and any additional fees which may be required, now or in the future, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2638. Please ensure that the Attorney Docket Number is referred to when charging any payments or credits for this case.

Should matters remain which the Examiner believes could be resolved in a further telephone interview, the Examiner is requested to telephone the Applicant's undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: June 17, 2004

Enrica Bruno
Limited Recognition (see attached)

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